

# Heritage & Architecture

MSc1 Heritage and Architecture Design Studio

*Adapting 20th Century Heritage: American Embassy*



Jan Versnel/ MAI, Amsterdam

## Tutors

Alexander de Ridder

|           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Code      | AR1AH010 |
| Credits   | 10 ECTS  |
| Location  | Den Haag |
| Excursion | Yes      |
| Costs     | -        |

From fortress to public building.

In 1959 the US embassy, designed by Marcel Breuer, was built at the corner of the 'Korte Voorhout' and the 'Lange Voorhout' in The Hague. This was the place of the former Hotel Paulez that was bombed during World War II. The new embassy consist of two rectangular volumes with each a separate monumental entrance. The volumes are connected by a transparent corridor and in the courtyard an independent auditorium is added. Because of safety reasons the embassy moved to Wassenaar and the building became vacant.

The focus of the design assignment is on creating more liveliness on this important location at the border of the inner city of The Hague. The aim is to attract people by giving the building a public program, making the plot more part of the urban live. The new functions are focusing on inviting people inside the building for a combination of activities, changing it in a

welcoming building.

In any case the building has to adapt to modern standards. The student has to substantiate proposed interventions in relation to the heritage values.

There is a strong relation between the H&A Architectural design studio and the Building Engineering studio ( AR1A080)